

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SP-02  
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /113 W  
-----070621Z 052073 /20

R 041020Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3745

UNCLAS DACCA 1149

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ENRG, BG

SUBJECT : INA-NAFTAPLIN/TEXAS PACIFIC OIL EXPLORATION

REF : DACCA 0511

1. ON MARCH 1, INA-NAFTAPLIN AND THE TEXAS PACIFIC PETROLEUM COMPANY (TP) RELEASED THEIR DRILLING SHIP WHICH HAD BEEN DRILLING ON THE INA EXPLORATION TRACT IN THE BAY OF BENGAL. THIS YEAR'S WELL WAS ABANDONED DUE TO SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH SALT WATER PRESSURES THAT WERE ENCOUNTERED AT THE DEPTH OF 14,000 FEET. THIS WELL HAD BEEN INTENDED TO REACH A PROMISING FORMATION AT THE DEPTH OF 15,500 FEET. TESTS FOR PETROCHEMICAL CONTENT IN A FORMATION AT AN INTERMEDIATE LEVEL HAD NEGATIVE RESULTS.
2. THE HIGH PRESSURE BAND WHICH FORCED THE ABANDONMENT OF THIS YEAR'S WELL WAS THE SECOND HIGH PRESSURE BAND ENCOUNTERED IN THE DRILLING OPERATION. IN LAST YEAR'S DRILLING SEASON, INA IN A WELL INTO THE SAME FORMATIONS, WAS FORCED TO CEASE DRILLING OPERATIONS BY THE FIRST OF THESE HIGH PRESSURE BANDS.

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3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE SECOND FAILURE TO REACH THE INTENDED DRILLING DEPTH ON THE INA TRACT IN THE BAY OF BENGAL. ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT FUTURE DRILLING PLANS BY INA AND TP ARE NOT EXPECTED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF INA AND TP CHOSE TO REPEAT WHAT HAS BEEN AN EXPENSIVE OPERATION. END COMMENT.

4. WITH THE SEALING OF THE INA/TP WELL THIS YEAR'S DRILLING SEASON HAS COME TO A CLOSE. THE ONLY OTHER WELL DRILLED THIS SEASON (SEE REFTTEL) WAS BY UNION OIL. SOME NATURAL GAS WAS FOUND IN THAT WELL. UNION OIL IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE MARKET FOR ITS GAS.

MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Subject:** INA-NAFTAPLIN/TEXAS PACIFIC OIL EXPLORATION  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009